

Remarks

Claims 1-36 are pending in the instant application. Claims 20 is currently withdrawn and claims 21-26, 28 and 29-33 are previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 6, 8, 15, 17-18, and 35 are submitted for consideration by the examiner.

In regards to objection # 9 in the Office Action dated August 29, 2006 regarding claim 10, the rinsing and drying mentioned in that claim are performed prior to the application of the ecoat. The ecoat is a part of the second method whereas the drying and rinsing mentioned in claim 10 are part of the first method.

The applicant respectfully submits the above amendments and explanation overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The rejection of claims 1-14, 16-19, 27, and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heimann et al. USPN 6,153,080, is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 20.

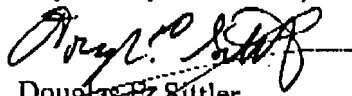
The rejection of claims 3, 8, 9, 12, 17-19, 27, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heimann et al. USPN 6,322,687, is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 20.

The rejection of claims 1-14, 16-19, 27 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heimann et al. USPN 6,322,687, is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims define patentable subject matter and request issuance of a Notice of Allowability. Should there be any fee due with this submission or otherwise due in connection with this application, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 15-0680 (Orscheln).

Should the Examiner deem that any action on the part of the Applicants would advance the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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